

HIGHLAND

"INDIANA'S LARGEST TOWN"



*Sesquicentennial Year
Commemorative Booklet*

1816 - 1966

LCPL



The League of Women Voters of Highland has donated its services to write the text of this booklet for the Sesquicentennial Committee as its contribution to the Sesquicentennial Celebration in Highland. The Committee is responsible for the distribution and sale of the booklet. All proceeds from this sale, in excess of publishing costs, will be turned over to the Sesquicentennial Committee to help defray expenses incurred in Highland's celebration. We hope the booklet will prove to be a useful source of information to the citizens of Highland as well as a memorable reminder of the history of our community. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to encourage a well-informed citizen participation in government.

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Wayne Kletzing

SECRETARY - Mrs. Eugene Tyler

TREASURER - Glen Wagner

BOOKLET - Text by League of Women Voters of Highland
Mrs. Philip Jaynes, President

EDITOR - Harold Wargo



Scouts raise "The Stars and Stripes" over Highland - "Indiana's Largest Town."

HIGHLAND - "INDIANA'S LARGEST TOWN"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1 - The Hoosier State	Page 5
Part 2 - History of Highland	Page 6
Part 3 - Highland's Town Government	Page 9
Part 4 - Library	Page 13
Part 5 - Recreation Facilities	Page 15
Part 6 - Educational Facilities	Page 18
Part 7 - Churches	Page 24
Part 8 - Community Organizations	Page 30

INSERTS

Map of Highland
Town Government "Who's Who"
Chamber of Commerce, Working Committees

Indiana 150 Years Old



The Old and the New



INDIANA STATE FLAG



STATE BIRD, CARDINAL



A BIRTHDAY GIFT for Indiana's 150th anniversary of statehood is the new Sesquicentennial seal, shown here with the official state seal. Any firm desiring to use the Sesquicentennial seal in conjunction with its home-town celebration may write, indicating intended use of the seal, to the Sesquicentennial Commission, Indianapolis.

STATE FLOWER, PEONY



STATE TREE, TULIP
(YELLOW POPLAR)

PART 1

INDIANA

THE HOOSIER STATE

FACTS:

Population: 4,825,000 (U.S. Census estimate, July 1, 1965) Rank in U. S. - 11th

Area: 36,185 sq. mi.

Capital: Indianapolis

State Flower: Peony

State Tree: Tulip tree (Yellow Poplar)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Song: "On the Banks of the Wabash" by Paul Dresser

State Poem: "Indiana" by Arthur Franklin Myers, Kendallville

State Seal: A pioneer scene - a woodsman felling a tree while a buffalo flees from the forest and a sun sets in the distance.

State Flag: Gold torch in the center of the blue field stands for liberty and enlightenment and the rays represent far reaching influence. The outer circle of gold stars represent the 13 original states; the inner circle of stars, the next five states admitted to the Union; the star above the torch stands for Indiana, the 19th State.

State Motto: "The Crossroads of America"

INDIANA MILESTONES

- 1800 - Capital established at Saint Vincennes
- 1813 - Capital moved to Corydon
- 1816 - INDIANA BECOMES A STATE
- 1817 - First state bank chartered in Corydon
- 1820 - Indiana University founded
- 1825 - State capital moved to Indianapolis
- 1837 - South Bend Iron works formed
- 1838 - Last Indian tribe leaves Indiana
- 1839 - First railway constructed
- 1851 - Second state constitution written
- 1852 - First state fair held
- 1888 - Statehouse finished
- 1894 - Haynes automobile introduced
- 1900 - Socialist Party founded
- 1902 - Soldiers and Sailors Monument dedicated
- 1911 - First 500-mile competition was held
- 1916 - First Indiana state park set up
- 1917 - State flag adopted
- 1933 - First state income tax introduced
- 1963 - First state sales tax established
- 1966 - INDIANA SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR

PART 2

HISTORY OF HIGHLAND

The town of Highland is a sprawling, friendly residential town, located in the extreme northwest corner of the State of Indiana just 28 miles southeast of Chicago, Ill. and near the intersection of Interstate 94 and U. S. 41. The town is built upon what formerly was rich farming land and has rapidly grown to an estimated population of 24,000 in 1966 making it the largest "town" in Indiana.

It all started back when the last of the glaciers receded at the end of the Ice Age, a body of water, called Lake Chicago, covered the area later known as the Calumet Region. As the drainage of this lake changed over the centuries, the water level lowered, forming new beaches, along one of which runs Highland's Ridge Road, with marsh and swamp lying between the ridges.

French missionaries and explorers in the 17th century were the first white men who passed through the region which was inhabited by the peaceful Potowatomi and Miami Indians. The French-Canadians who helped with the early mapping of the area gave the name Calumet - their term for the Indian pipe of peace - to the region as well as the two rivers. Many Indian trails crossed the area including the Old Sauk Trail where fish and wildlife, trees and wild berries were plentiful.

In 1820 there were almost 150,000 people in the State of Indiana but not one in the Calumet region which was called the "Northern Swamps" as late as 1845.

In 1847 a young couple, Michael and Judith Johnston, left Ohio to settle in Illinois where Mrs. Johnston had a contract to teach school. While traveling the Calumet Beach Trail (present Ridge Road) through Indiana, they noticed the wealth of wildlife in this area. Michael decided to settle in Highland and after escorting his wife to Illinois, he returned and built a log cabin on a high point on the Ridge, which is now the intersection of Grace Street.

He started to acquire land, hunted and trapped, raised corn and wheat and traded with the Indians when they came in the fall to hunt. In 1848, Judith joined her husband and they became the first permanent residents of Highland. Their nearest neighbors were the Mundell family who lived one-half mile east of Hobart and the family of Allen Brass, owners of the Brass Tavern, an inn built at the intersection of Ridge Road and Columbia in Munster.

The Johnstons had one child, Rod, who lived his life in Highland. He married and many of the descendants of his four children, Mrs. Grace Johnston Douthett, Mrs. Daisy Johnston Jamieson, Mrs. Iola Johnston Jansen, and Milton Johnston, are still living in Highland. Michael and Judith died in Highland in 1905 and 1906 respectively. More settlers followed the Johnstons and Judith became the first teacher in the area. She taught the settler's children in her home for 11 years.

The first school building was built in 1860 on the south side of Ridge Road near Liable Road. The pupils sat on stools and had no desks. A larger school was built in 1884 on Highway Avenue and this school building is now located on Ridge Road and is a private home.

The third school building, the present Town Hall, was built in 1897. By 1915 it was too small and Main School was built. It was enlarged in 1925 and again in 1935.

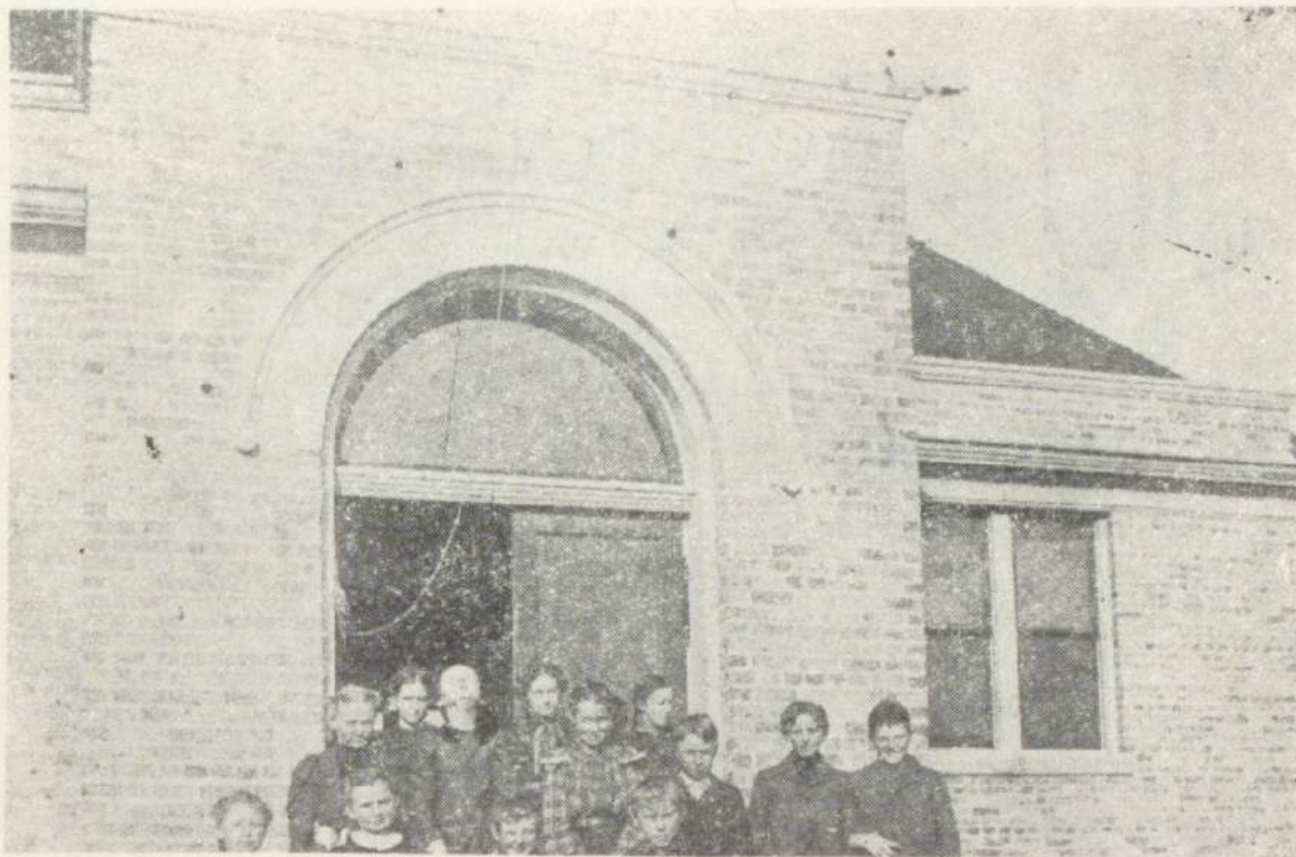
Highland's first congregation dedicated its house of worship, the Peoples Church of Highland, in 1900.

During the early days there was much traffic in land, with outsiders bearing such familiar names as Clough, Hart, Burns, and Wicker, buying up large tracts of swampland. These men were progressive thinkers and soon decided to dig a series of ditches to drain the land to make productive farm land. During this period the Ridge almost disappeared as land was dug and sold for fill. Many of the trees were felled for lumber to be used in building homes in Chicago and also to be used for railroad ties.

In 1871, on the day before the great Chicago fire, a fire started in Highland that traveled over the whole Cady Marsh south of the Ridge, burning the farmer's hay along with the dry swamp growth. The fire smouldered all winter in the peat bogs until the spring rains.

Transportation for the people improved with the coming of the railroads in 1883. When the surveyors for the Erie Railroad reached this locality from Chicago and climbed the Ridge it was the first high ground they had been on for miles and they called it Highland. However it was still called Clough Postal Station for many more years.

The town was platted in 1882 and included an area of about five square blocks, centered by the railroad station. The streets running north and south were First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth; those running east and west were Highway, Jewett, Wicker, Clough, and Lincoln. Other streets added later which bear the names of early property owners include Condit, Johnston, Liable, Wirth and Grace.



TOWN HALL AS SEEN IN 1908

In 1890 a Kraut Factory was started that brought many immigrants from Holland to the town as truck farmers who raised vast amounts of cabbage, onions, tomatoes, and pickles. The factory, owned later by Libby, McNeill and Libby, was known to cut from 60 to 100 tons of cabbage a day in season and it was not unusual to see a hundred wagons standing in line to be unloaded. Hundreds of carloads of red onions were shipped by rail to the southern states.

The truck farmers were dependent upon the manure from the many horse teams in Chicago for fertilizer as the automobile replaced the horse, the type of farming changed and produce was sold directly to Chicago. In 1924, the canning and pickling factory moved to Blue Island, Ill. However, some farming still continues in Highland today.

Other industries started in the early 20th century included another kraut factory, a brick factory and a cement block company, all long since closed.

In 1910 the Town of Highland was incorporated with a population of 304. The first Board of Trustees took office in 1912 with three members.

The first bank was the Farmers and Merchants Bank located at the northeast corner of Highway and Kennedy. It opened in 1914 and operated until 1932.

During 1925 a movement was started by many prominent men of Lake County to preserve the last great stand of timber in the area by providing a memorial park in honor of the soldiers and sailors who gave their lives in World War I. Much effort on the part of such men as Murray Turner, a Hammond Park Commissioner, and Walter Wicker and Olaf Langley of Highland, resulted in a special act of the Indiana Legislature forming Wicker Memorial Park as a Township Park. It was disannexed from Highland and is under the jurisdiction of the North Township Trustee, the only Township park in Indiana. The park was dedicated in 1927 by President Calvin Coolidge, who was received with much fanfare by the town.



Corner of Highway Avenue and Kennedy Avenue. Left to right: Melvin Spencer, Ed Krooswyk, and Hank Molenaar.

PART 3

TOWN GOVERNMENT

In 1910 Highland held its first election. In 1945 the citizens elected to continue the town form of government. Highland's population has now grown to the point where it has passed many cities in size and it could become a 3rd class city, if the people would so choose.

The town government consists of a clerk-treasurer and five town trustees elected for 4-year terms, all expiring at the same time. Elections are held in odd numbered years in which county, state, and national elections are not held.

The clerk-treasurer works full time and employs deputies. She is responsible for all the records of the town, the minutes of the Town Board, the accounting and budget matters, and serves as treasurer of town funds. She is also responsible for the billing and accounting of the Water Department and the collecting of fees for permits and fines.

The trustees are elected by the citizens at large, but they must reside in the particular ward they are to represent. These trustees compose the Town Board which administers the Town and its departments. The Board elects its own president who presides over the meetings.

The trustees appoint the following: Town Attorney, Town Engineer, Building Commissioner, Street Commissioner, Water Commissioner, Electrical Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, Police Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Plan Commission, Recreation Board, Civil Defense Director and Board of School Trustees.

TOWN SERVICES

PROTECTION - POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Metropolitan Police Law was established in the Town of Highland in 1957. The law provides for the appointment of 3 Police Commissioners, who serve for 3 years. The Commissioners appoint prospective police officers as well as other employees in the department, and fix their salaries.

The Highland Police Department is a modern force with strict requirements for eligibility and fine training and equipment. The police are at your service twenty-four hours a day and the public is encouraged to call at any time to report a problem and ask information. The number is 838-3187.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Highland Fire Department is a volunteer organization and is responsible to the Town Board. It is composed of 39 men selected by the group. The facilities consist of 4 fire engines, one rescue squad truck, and one first aid truck. They are owned and maintained by the Town and housed in the Town Hall.

The firemen are notified of a fire by means of a siren and a special telephone system. The newest and latest available type of alarm system is being installed at each school near the main entrance. The department answers about 220 fire calls and 133 first aid calls each year. The men receive a small stipend for each call they make. The Fire Department can be called at 838-3171, 24 hours a day to answer an emergency.

CIVIL DEFENSE

The Town provides for Civil Defense through a voluntary organization which cooperates with the Police in providing for protection of life and property in the event of enemy action or natural disaster.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

The Highland Emergency Fund, Inc. is financed through the Hammond Community Chest and there are 16 Highland residents who serve as directors to administer emergency relief and help to Highland families. For help contact the Town Clerk, Town Hall.

HEALTH

Health inspections of businesses dealing with food is provided by the Lake County Health Department.

MISCELLANEOUS

DOGS AND CATS: Dogs and cats must have a Town dog tag and rabies shot yearly. They must not be permitted to run loose but be kept under the owners control at all times.

FIREARMS

No shooting is permitted within the town limits, except in farm areas where previous permission has been granted by the Town Board.

WATER

Highland gets its water from Lake Michigan through the City of Hammond. It is stored in tanks and tested daily for purity by the Hammond Water Department.

UTILITIES

Gas, electricity and telephone services are available. Facilities are extended to new areas as soon as possible. Street lights are being added as rapidly as the tax rate will permit.

STREETS

New streets are usually built by contractors developing a subdivision and maintenance assumed by the Town when completed according to specifications. New streets in older areas are usually built by special assessments against benefitted land.

GARBAGE

Garbage is hauled weekly by town truck to the garbage dump and covered by soil. This service is provided by the Town. A special truck will haul away unwieldy objects - a call to the Town Hall will obtain this service.

SEWAGE

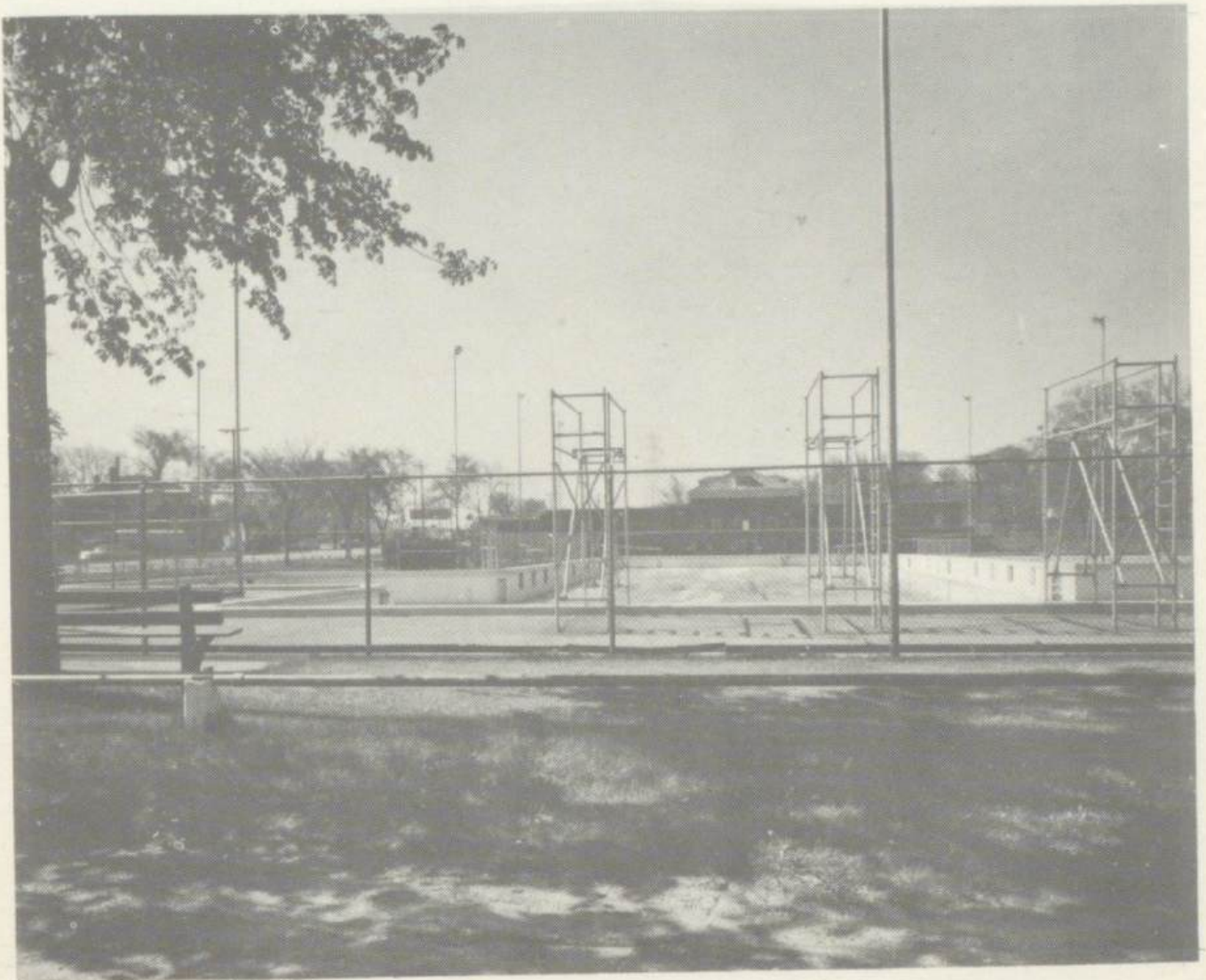
The City of Hammond has contracted to handle Highland's sewage disposal, and much of the Town's sewage system is now connected to Hammond's interceptor system. Some sewage is still treated in septic tanks which empty into the ditches.

PLANNING

The Planning Commission, appointed by the Town Board, is responsible for town planning under the zoning ordinances which govern the town's orderly growth. A Zoning Board of Appeals will hear all cases involving waiving terms of the zoning laws. Members of these boards work on a volunteer basis.

The Highland Library, which is a Memorial to the fallen of World War II, was made possible by a fund-raising effort organized by the Lion's Club. The Library will soon be housed in a brand new building but will still be the Highland Memorial Library.

Today Highland is Indiana's largest town with a population of over 23,000 in an area of rapid metropolitan development and expansion. Awareness of the needs of the community and careful planning will insure continuing progress and pride in the future of our town.



WICKER PARK SWIMMING POOL LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP PARK.



PRESENT TOWN HALL ON HIGHWAY AVENUE & 4TH STREET.

PART 4

THE HIGHLAND LIBRARY

The Highland Public Library is one of the fourteen community libraries of the Lake County Public Library System. Established in 1959, the Lake County Public Library replaced a contractual service with the Gary Public Library. Serving six townships in central Lake County, the service is administered from an administrative headquarters from which all library materials are selected and processed by electronic data processing equipment. A closed teletype communication system together with a daily courier service gives patrons delivery and exchange of library materials within twenty-four hours, and enables each library to serve patrons in a manner comparable to a large city public library.

The present building, 2847 Highway, was built in 1945, and sponsored by the Lions Club as a memorial to the servicemen and women of World War II.

The new library, completed in 1966, is a part of the building and expansion program provided for by the \$1,500,000 bond issue in 1964. It is of contemporary design and in the heart of the business district. The building is air conditioned, has accoustical fireproof

ceiling tile, fluorescent lighting, and heat absorbing glass. It is carpeted, has book and study areas for younger children, teen-agers and adults. Reference materials and service areas are located between adult and teen-age areas. The building provides ample workroom and facilities for staff, public washrooms and after hours book drop and night lighting. Included is a sound-proof multi-purpose meeting room which may be used for library programs and purposes.

The Library Committee, representing the various community groups and organizations, is responsible for the outstanding contributions of money, furniture, and equipment.

The Library Board of Trustees, which establishes the tax levy for the library services, is made up of seven members. Three members are appointed by the Circuit Judge, two by the Lake County Commissioners, and two by the Lake County School Board.

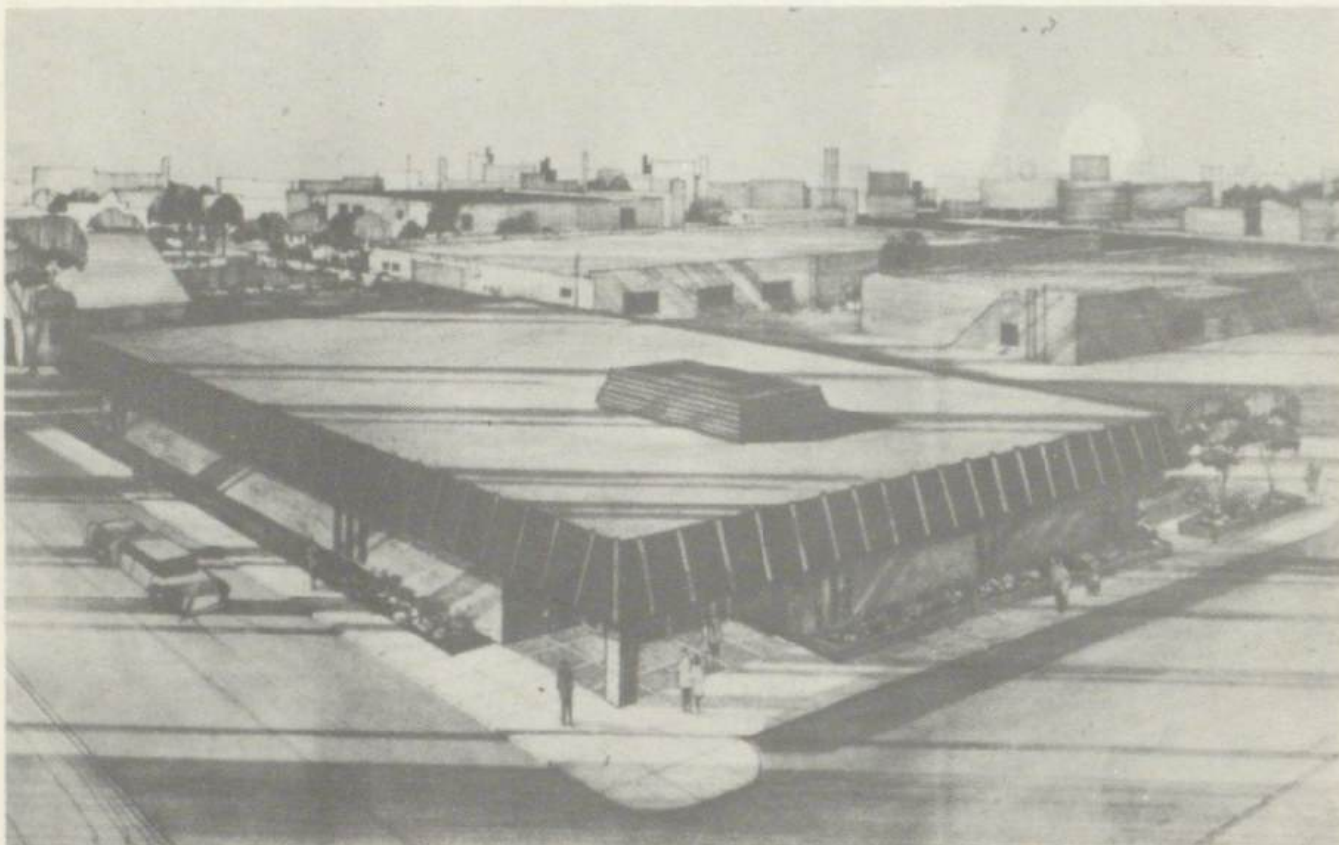
The expansion of library services is due to the determined efforts of the taxpayers and the library board.

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
221 West Ridge Road
Griffith, Indiana

For more information call
R. Paul Bartolini, Director or
Oshia Wilson, Public Relations
Coordinator
923-6501 or 882-9787



The old Library located at 2847 Highway, was constructed in 1945.



The new Library, located at 4th & Jewett St., is to be completed this year.

PART 5

TOWN RECREATION

Planning for recreational opportunities in Highland is the responsibility of the Recreation Board consisting of four members appointed by the Town Board, one each year for a four year term. A member of the School Board also serves on this board and a Town Board member is an ex-officio member. Members of the Recreation Board serve without pay and work diligently to administer budgeted funds in the most worthwhile manner. The Recreation Budget is part of the Town Budget and all funds are obtained and dispensed through the Town Board.

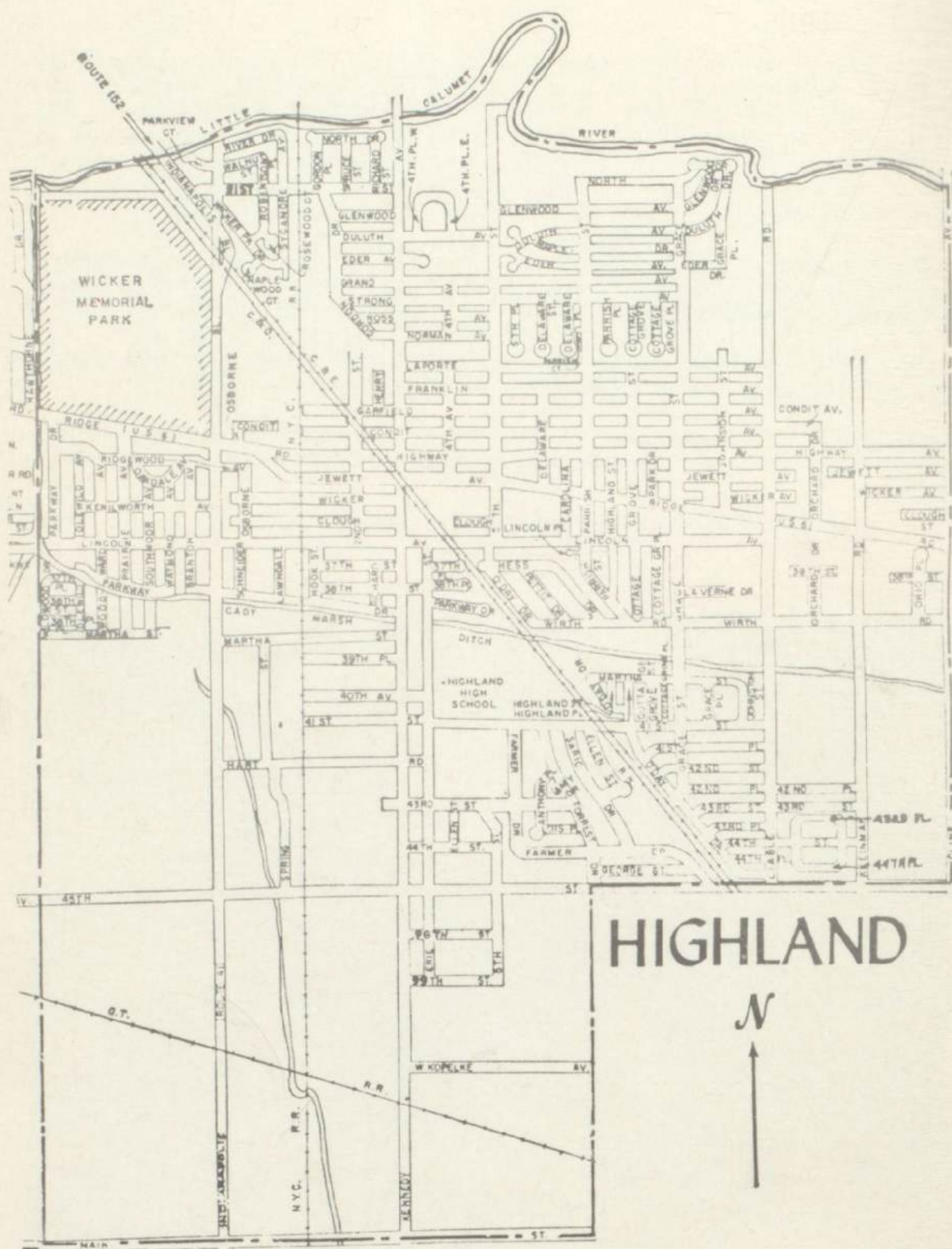
The Recreation Board is developing and maintaining seven parks and in addition, cooperation between Highland's School Board and the Recreation Board has resulted in development of school properties for use as recreational facilities.

Many community organizations have contributed to the development of the Town's parks and continue to take an active interest in them.

Highland is taking giant strides forward in providing adequate park facilities and recreational programs to meet the growing needs for recreation in our community.



WICKER PARK PICNIC AREA



HIGHLAND



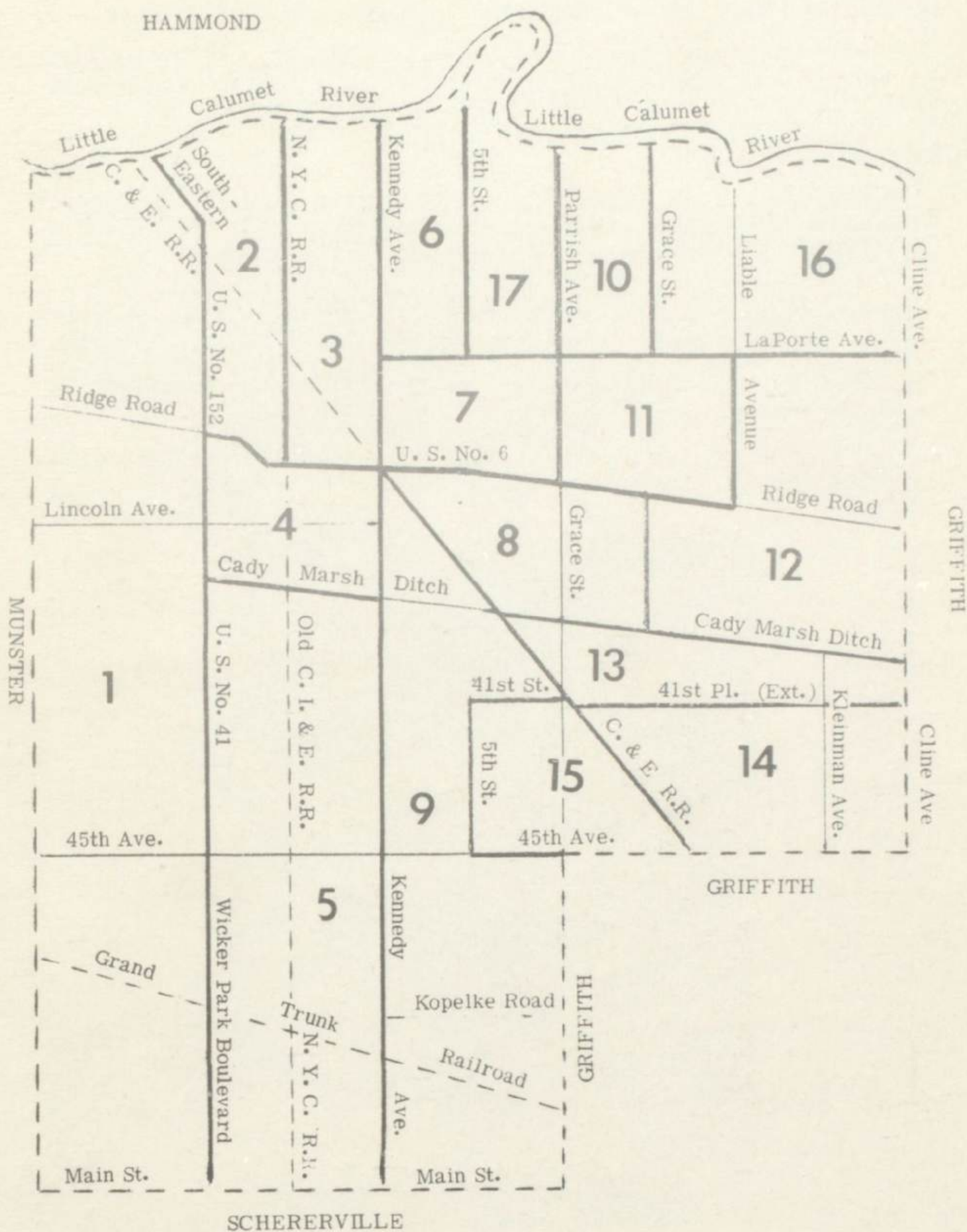
HIGHLAND PRECINCT MAP 1965-66

NORTH



NORTH TWP.

HAMMOND



PART 6

TOWN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The Highland Public School system has come a long way since Mrs. Johnston held the first class in her home in 1849. Today there are six elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school with a combined enrollment of nearly 6,000 students and a staff of over 200 teachers. The schools meet all requirements of the State of Indiana and are commissioned by the State Department of Education.

The high school is fully accredited and has a first class rating in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. For the past thirty years, the school system has been under the supervision of Mr. Lon P. Monbeck. Mr. Monbeck retired in June 1966 and was succeeded by Mr. A. J. Warren, former high school principal.

Highland also has one parochial grade school and two private schools. A parochial school is a church controlled school. There are 3: Our Lady of Grace, Christian and Baptist School, also a Redeemer Lutheran Kindergarten.

Higher education is easily available to Highland residents. Indiana University has two extensions nearby, one in Gary and one in East Chicago. Purdue has a large extension in Hammond and St. Joseph also has an extension in East Chicago. In addition, there are countless Chicagoland colleges and universities within easy commuting distance.

During the fall and winter months, courses are offered to adults in sewing, physical education, ceramics, bridge, etc., through the Park Recreation Board.



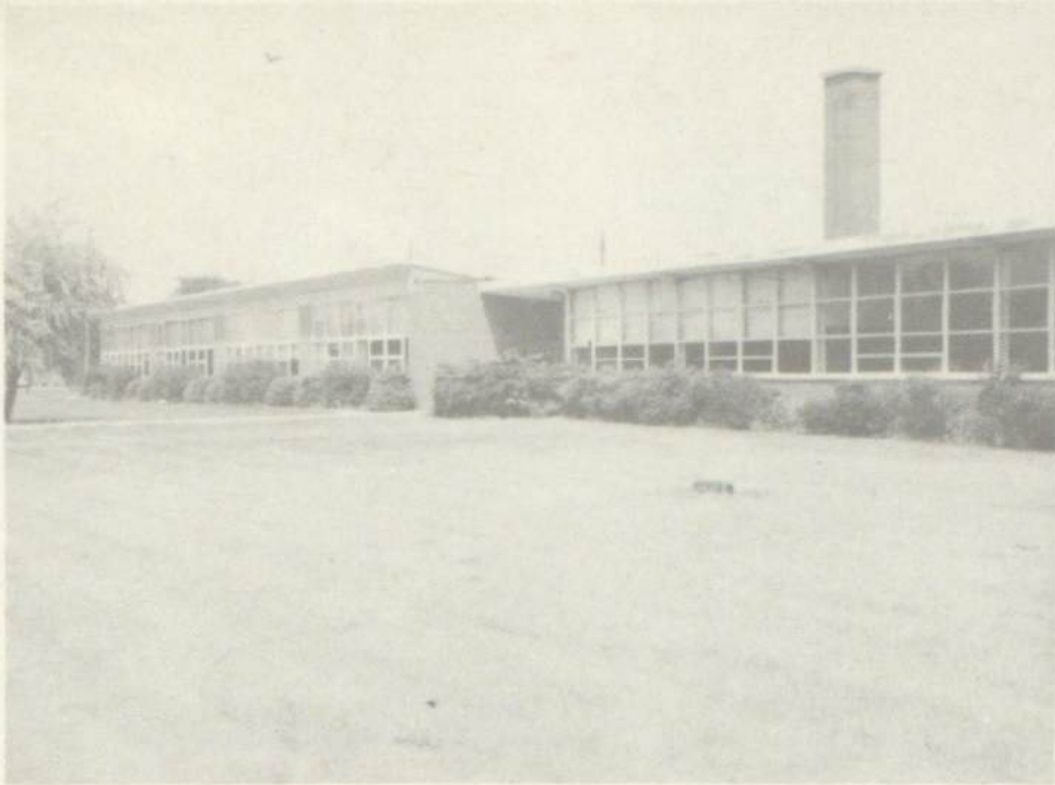
Main School was built in 1913 and is the town's oldest public school.



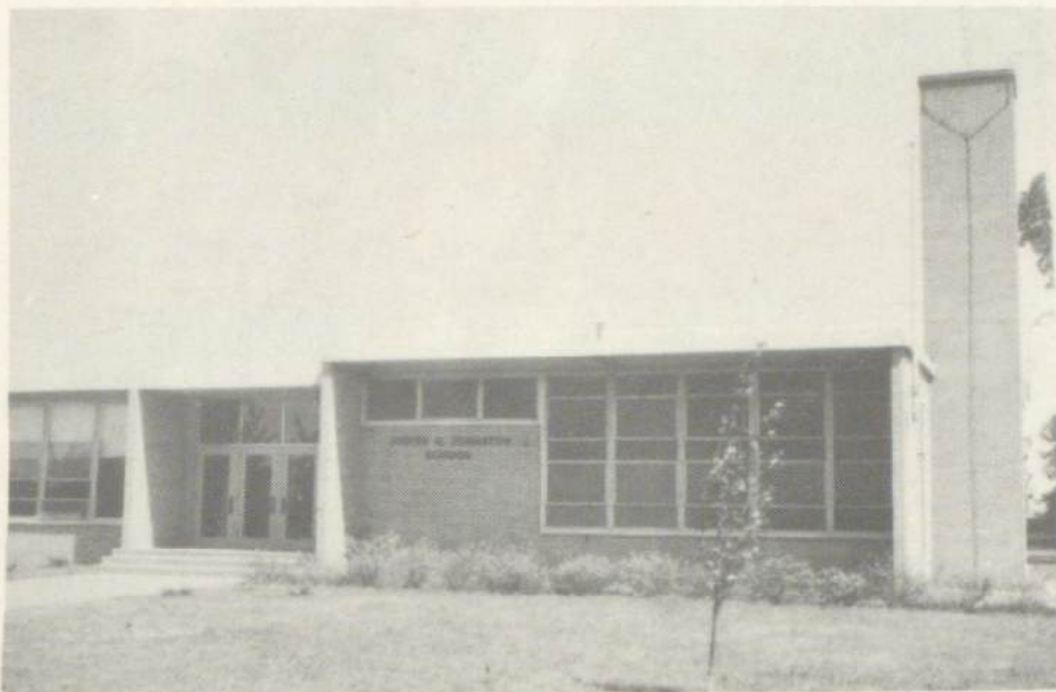
Highland Senior High School, 9135 Erie St., constructed 1957.



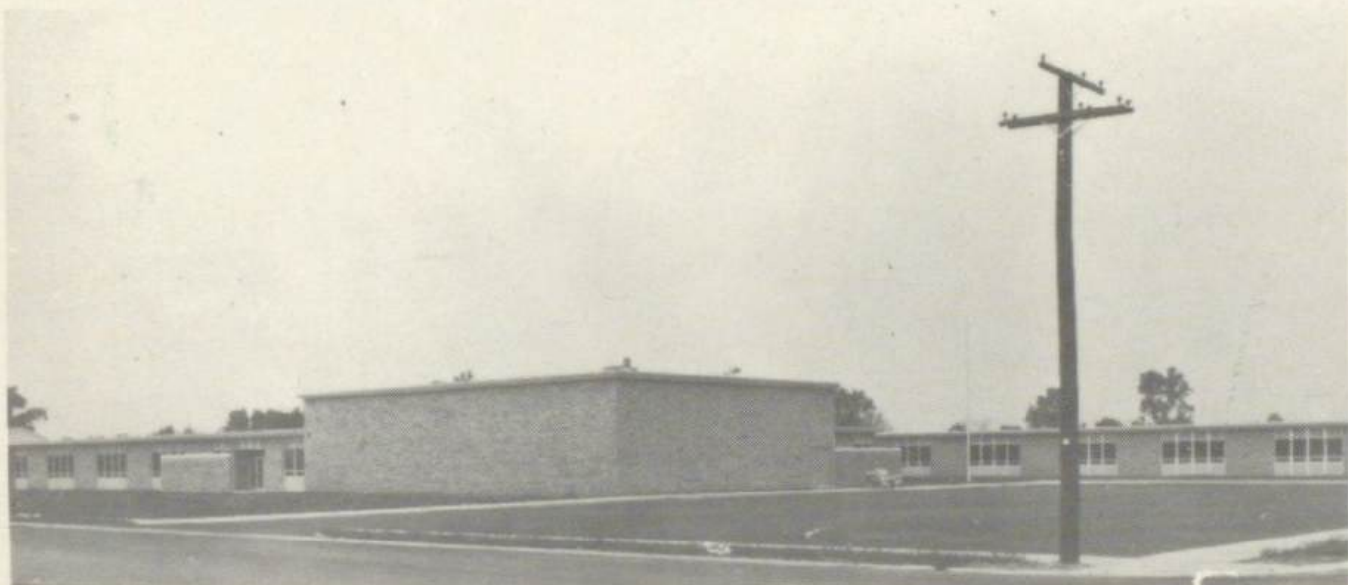
Highland Junior High School, 2941 - 41st St., constructed 1963.



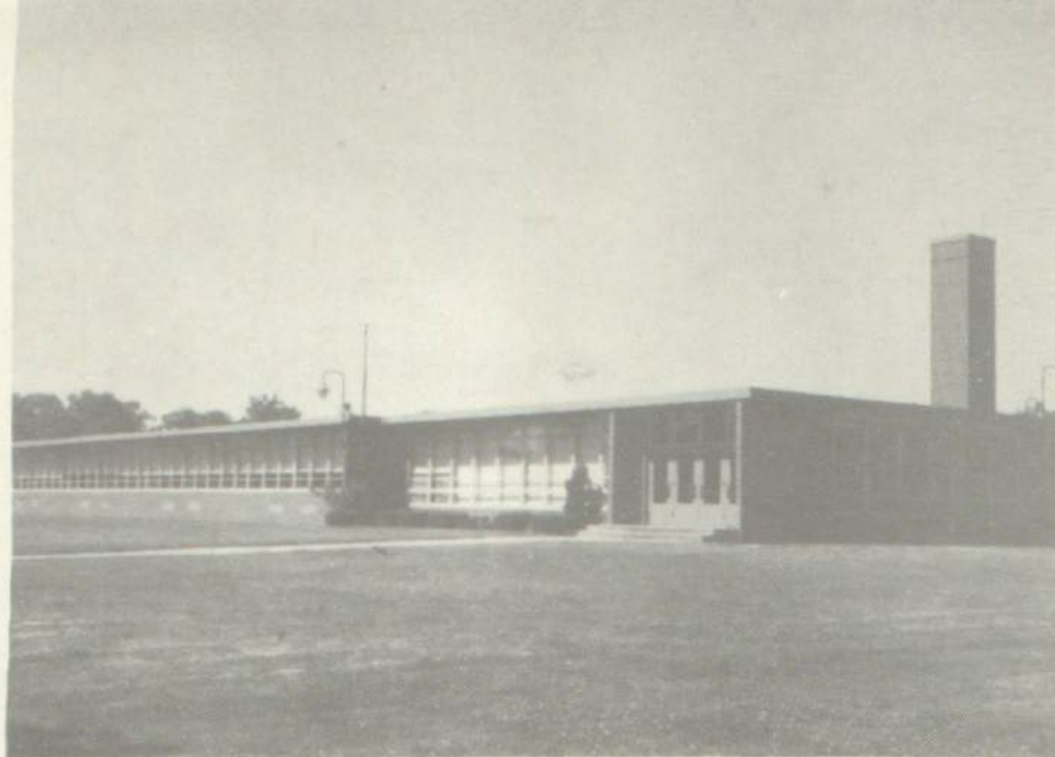
Lincoln School, 2450 Lincoln St., constructed 1946.



Judith Johnston School, 2945 Grand Blvd., constructed 1955.

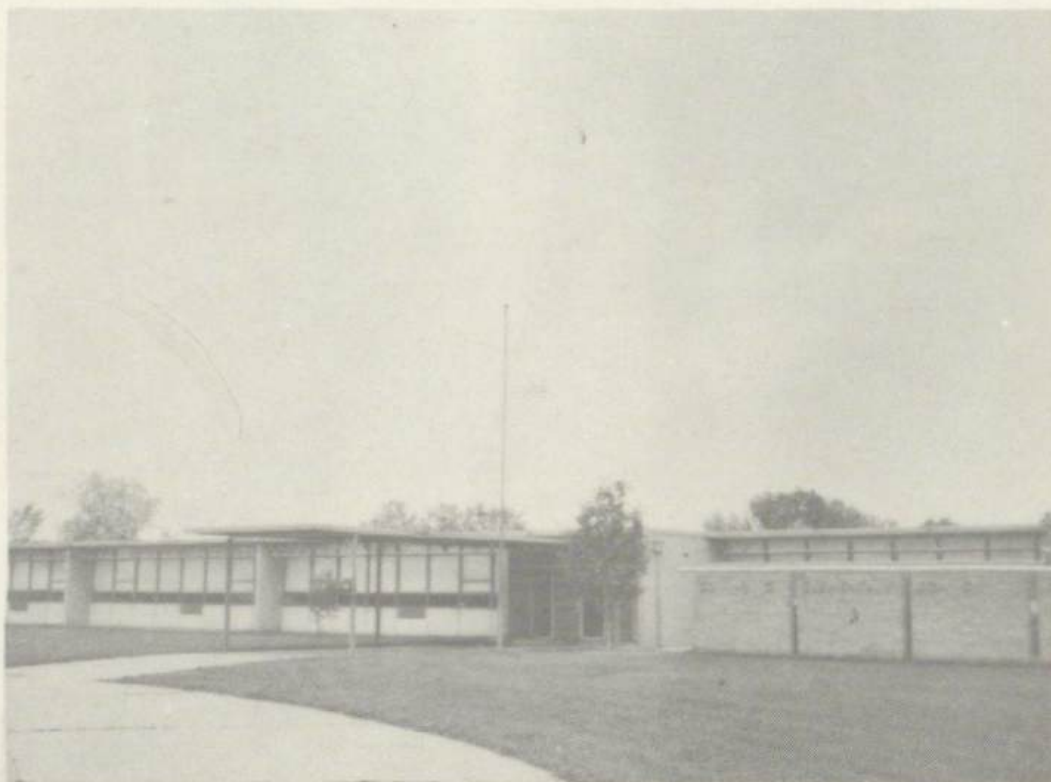


Mildred Merkley School, 5th & 43rd St., constructed 1964.



Orchard Park School, 8920 Orchard Ave., constructed 1953.

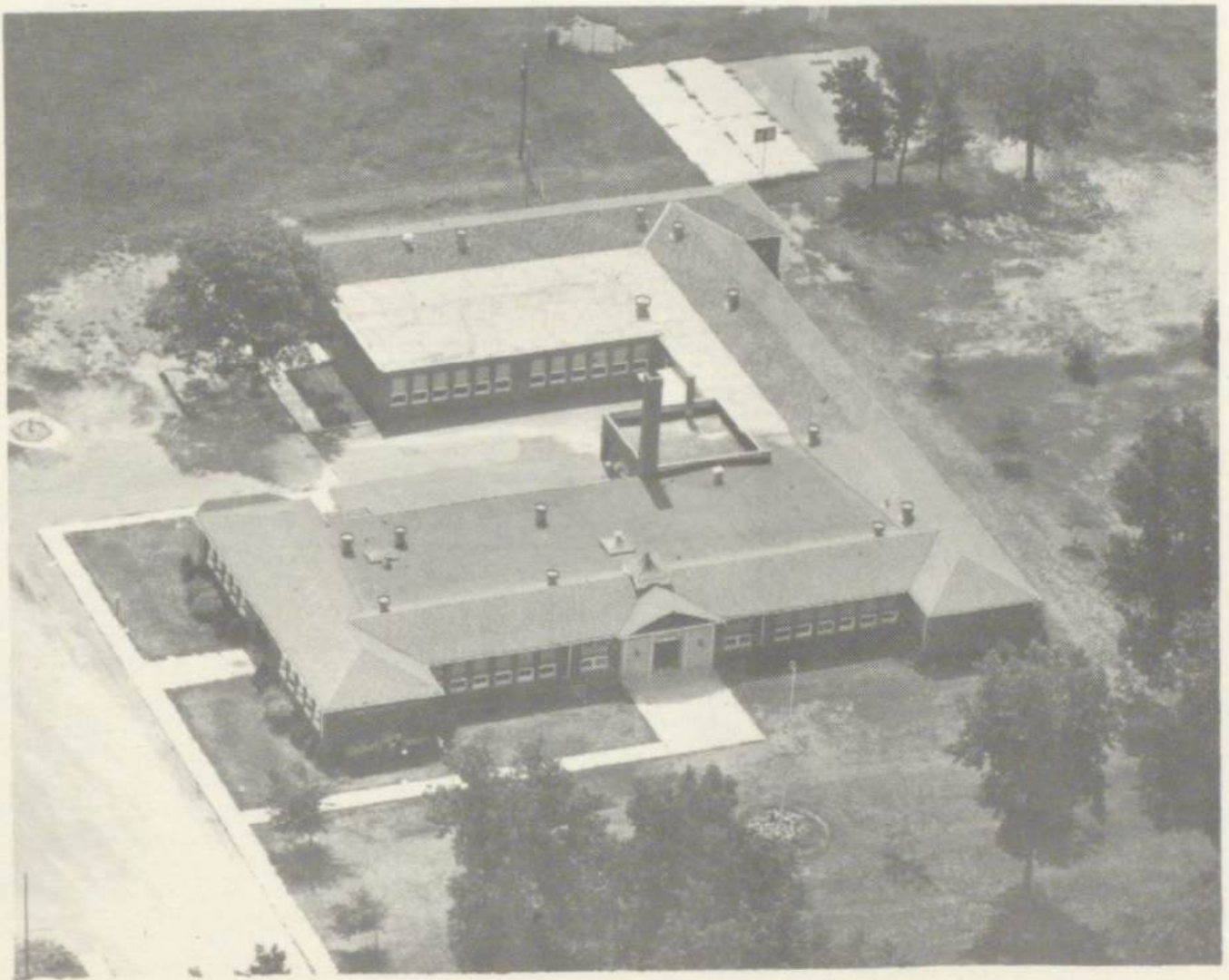
Calvary Baptist School in Church.



Southridge School, 9221 Johnston St., constructed 1959.



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Grade School, 5th & Highway, constructed 1954.

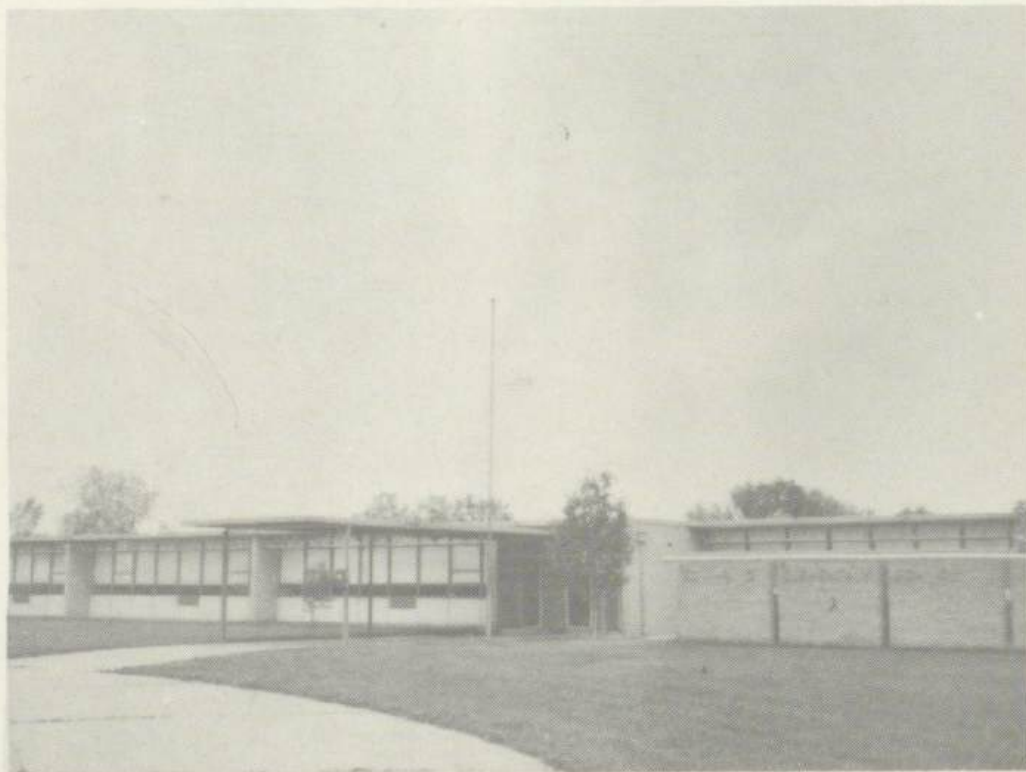


Highland Christian School, founded 1909, present building constructed 1951.

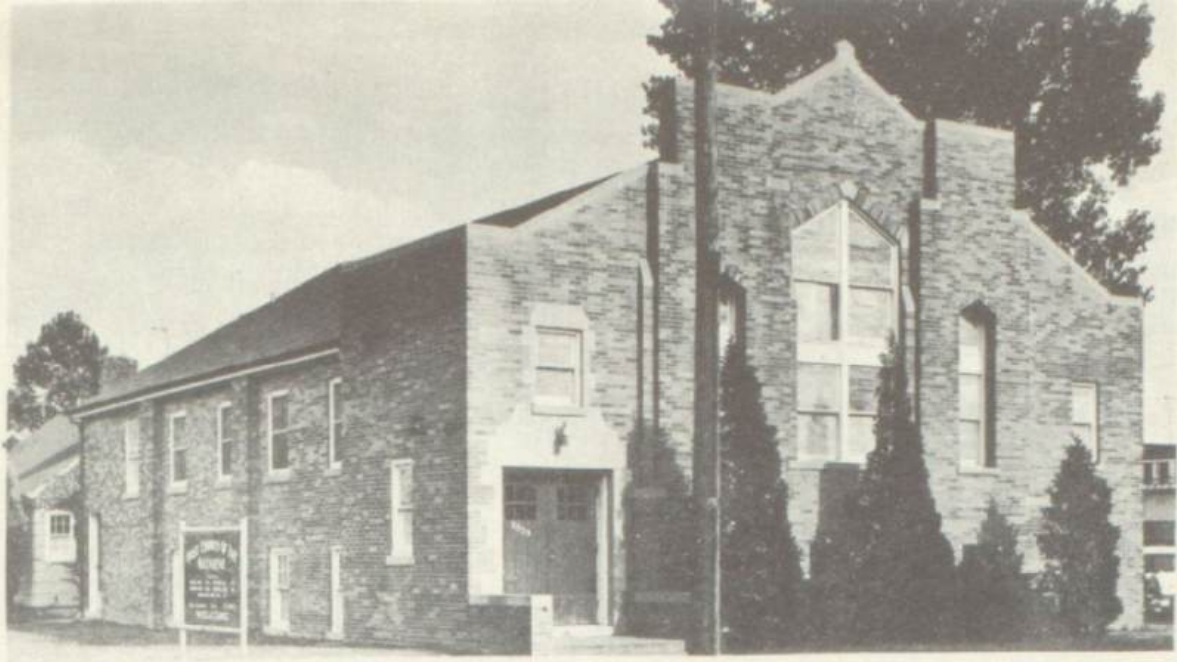


Orchard Park School, 8920 Orchard Ave., constructed 1953.

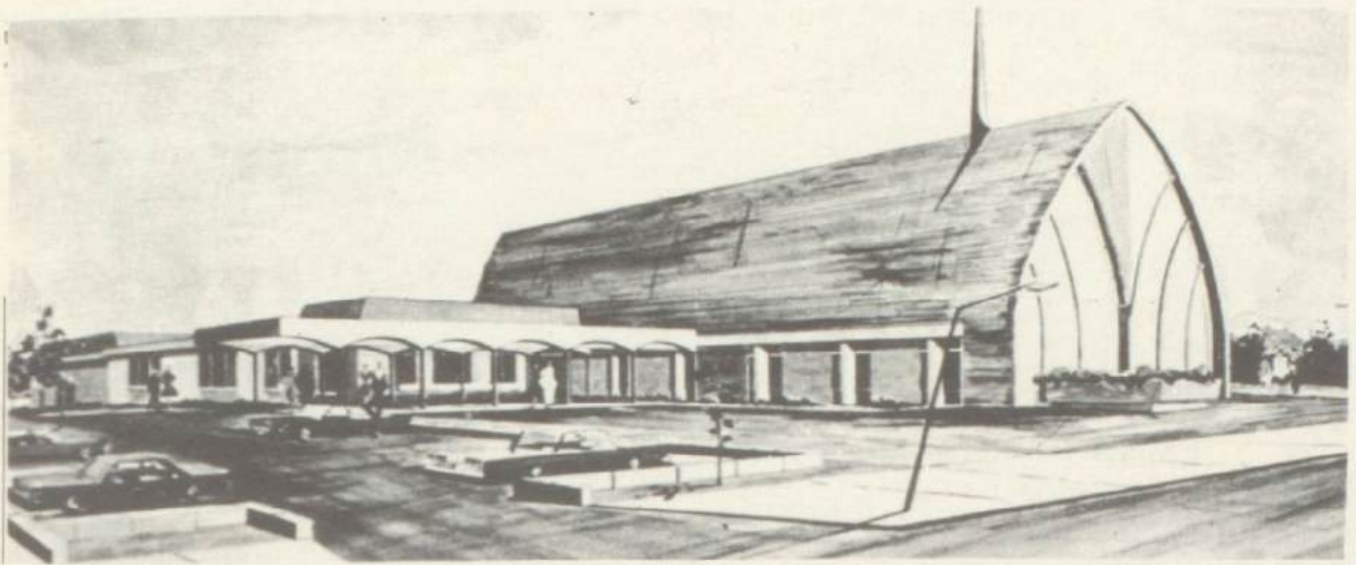
Calvary Baptist School in Church.



Southridge School, 9221 Johnston St., constructed 1959.



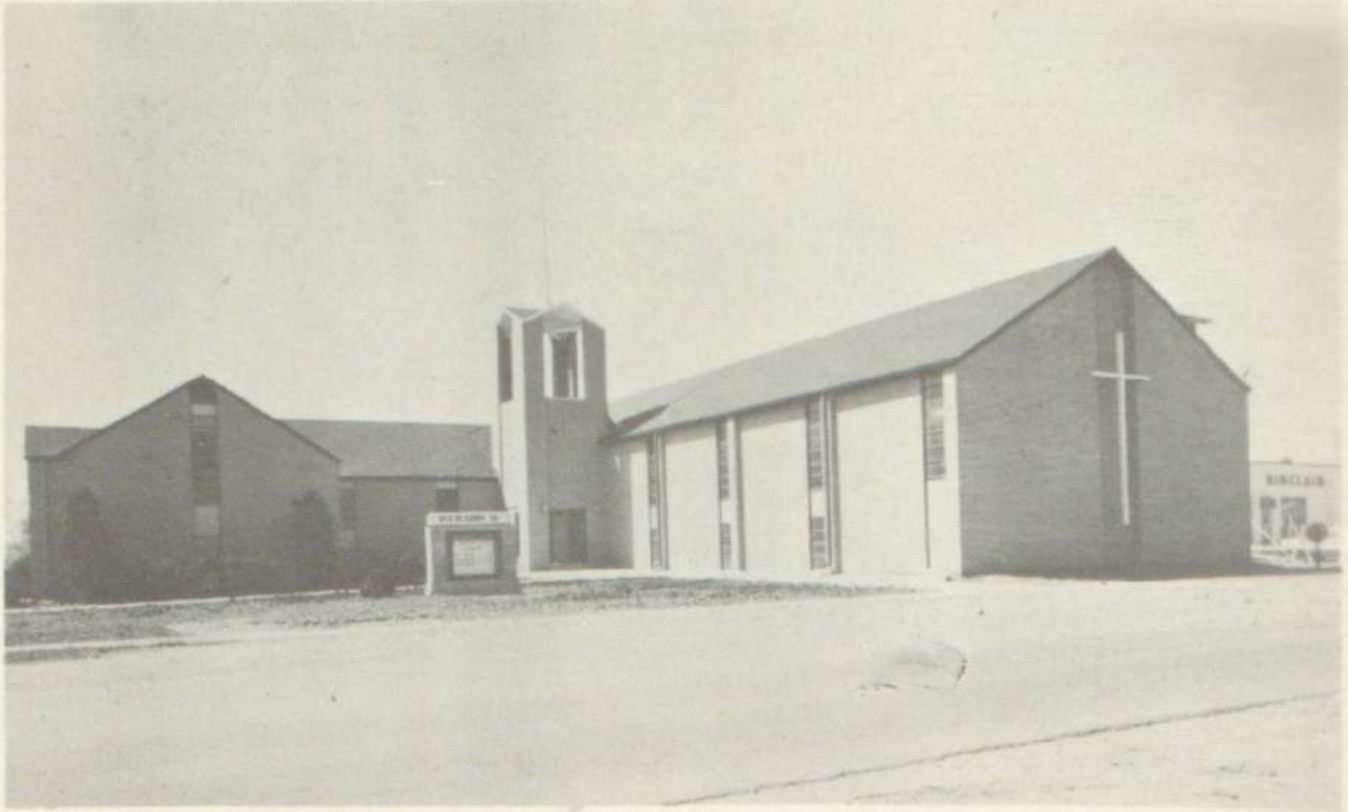
First Church of the Nazarene was founded in 1940; present building was dedicated in 1947.



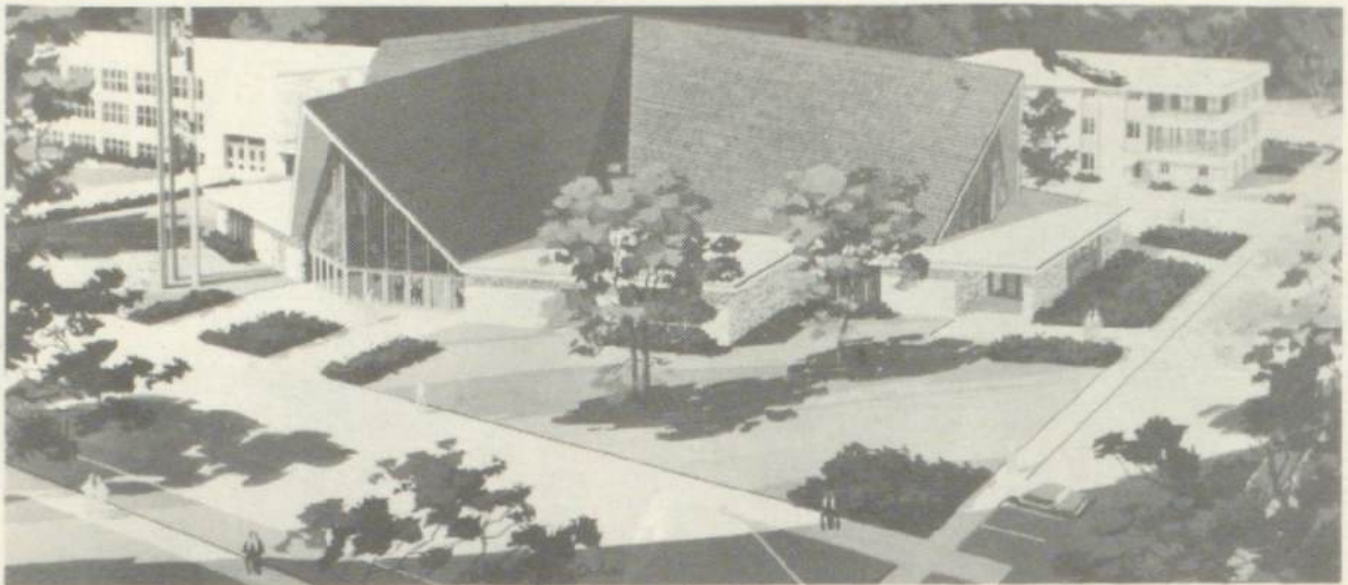
First Christian Reformed Church, organized April 28, 1908, dedicated November 18, 1908. A new church building is to be dedicated in 1967.



Calvary Baptist Church of Highland, founded as the Union Church of Highland in 1899. The present Calvary Baptist Church was built in 1950.



First Church of Christ, founded in 1945 as the Highland First Christian Church, dedicated in 1949, and changed name to First Church of Christ in 1949.



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, organized in 1949, dedicated in 1954. Construction of new building in 1966.



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Highland, organized in 1954, dedicated in 1956.



Second Christian Reformed Church, organized in 1953, dedicated in 1957.

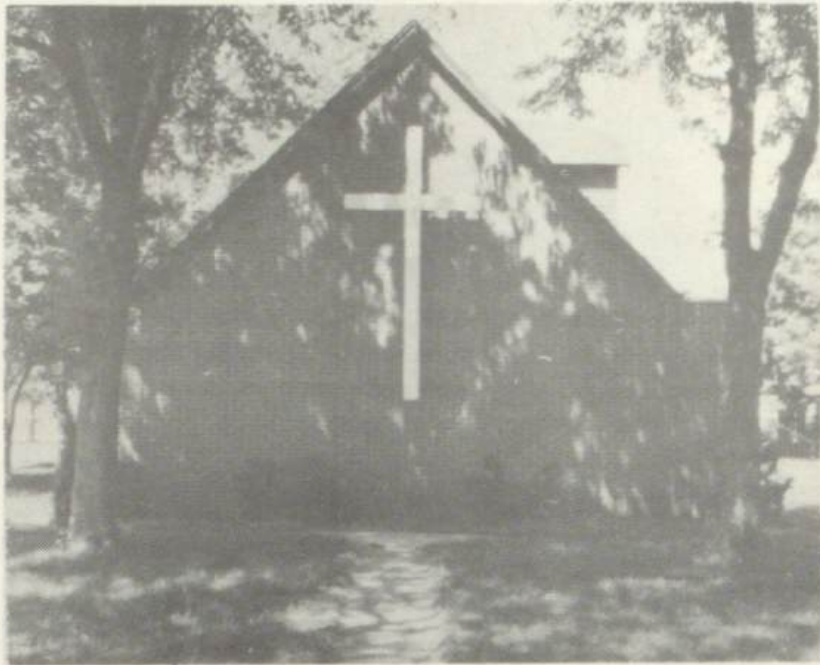
St. Timothy's Church (Episcopal) of St. Paul's Parish. Ground broken for a new church April, 1966.



First Southern Baptist Church, organized in 1958, dedicated in 1961
A new church will be erected in 1966.



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, founded in 1959, organized officially as the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Highland in 1960.



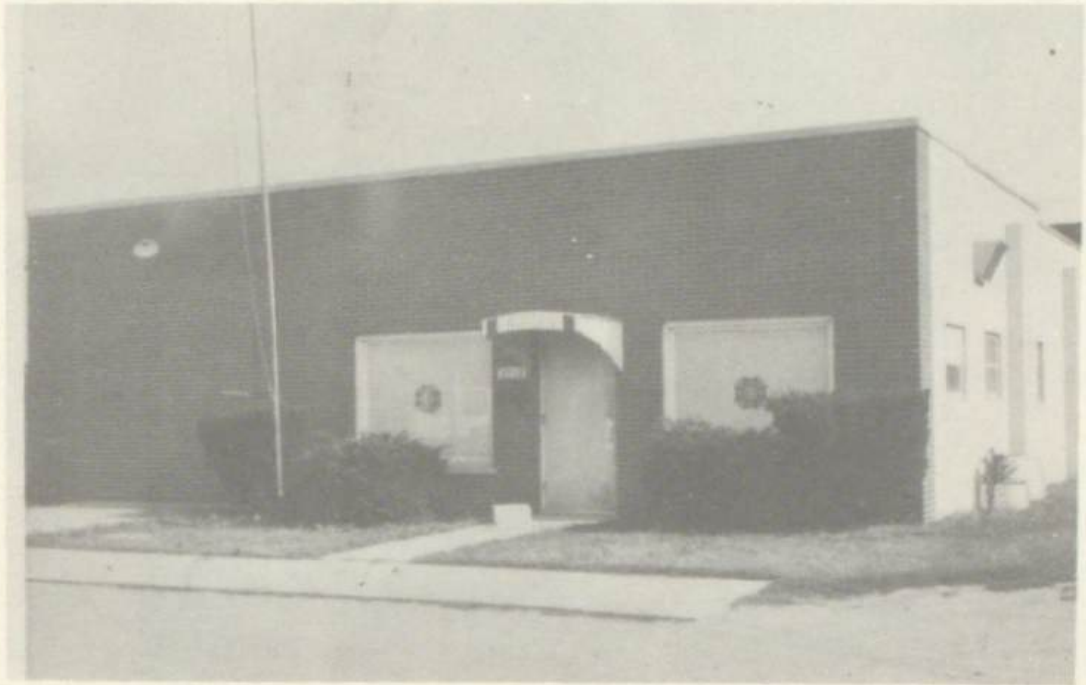
Highland Assembly of God Church, organized in 1961, dedicated in 1963.



Suburban Bible Church, 5th & 41st St.



AMERICAN LEGION HALL POST #180



V F W HALL POST 1109



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

PART 8

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Unlimited opportunities for participation in organizations exist in Highland. Organizations of every type - school, church, civic, service, recreational and many others are open to satisfy the varied interests of this growing community.

CIVIC & RECREATIONAL ASPECTS

Organizations

1. American Legion Post #180
2. American Legion Auxiliary Post #180
3. Altar Guild of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
4. Altar & Rosary Society of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
5. Alpha Delta Pi
6. Brantwood Home & Garden Club
7. Catholic Young Adults (CYA)
8. Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)
9. Democratic Club of Highland
10. HIGHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.
11. Highland Council of PTA
12. Highland Consolidated Charities Council
13. Highland Garden Club
14. Highland Young Democratic Club
15. Highland GOP Women
16. Highland High School Adult Booster Club
17. Highland High School PTA
18. Highland Property Owners Association
19. Highland Boys Baseball Club, Inc.
20. Highland Building Contractors
21. Highland Model A Restorers Club
22. Highland Junior High School PTA
23. Highland Key Club - Kiwanis Sponsored
24. Highland Home Demonstration Club
25. Highland Jaycees
26. Highland Jayshees
27. Highland Junior Woman's Club
28. Highland Kiwanis Club
29. Highland League of Women Voters
30. Highland Lions Club
31. Highland Mothers Club
32. Highland Welcome Wagon Newcomers Club
33. Highland Woman's Club
34. Home and School Association (Our Lady of Grace)
35. Johnston School PTA
36. Lincoln School PTA
37. Main School PTA
38. Mildred Merkley School PTA
39. Marquette Council-Knights of Columbus
40. Mothers of World War II, Unit 57
41. Orchard Park School PTA
42. St. Leo Circle, Daughters of Isabella
43. Southridge School PTA
44. Town and Country Garden Club of Highland
45. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1109 (Leonard Sporman Post)
46. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1109 Auxiliary
47. Women's Association of Highland Presbyterian Church
48. Zeta Pi Chapter, Psi Iota Xi Sorority
49. Highland Public Schools Band Parents Association
50. Highland Emergency Fund
51. Highland Rotary Club



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

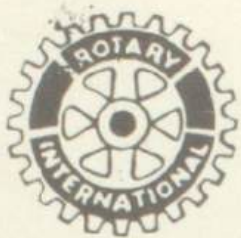


YOUR HIGHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SAYS:

IT'S NICE TO LIVE IN HIGHLAND!

.. AND PEOPLE AGREE!

HIGHLAND SERVICE CLUBS



ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL



JUNIOR
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS
POST #1109



CIVIL DEFENSE



AMERICAN LEGION
POST #180



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS



KIWANIS
INTERNATIONAL



LIONS
INTERNATIONAL

